

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DLAZAR:PW

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066810

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CS

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE - STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

1. FYI--FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR NOON
BRIEFING TO BE USED ON "IF ASKED" BASIS:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

Q: HAS THE COSTA RICAN LEGISLATURE CALLED FOR AN INVESTI-
GATION OF THE ALLEGED INTERVENTION OF U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS
IN THE RECENT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE RECENTLY
PASSED COSTA RICAN EXTRADITION LAW?

A: YES. ON APRIL 1 THE COSTA RICAN LEGISLATURE APPROVED
A MOTION CALLING ON THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO INVESTIGATE THE
ALLEGED INTERVENTION OF U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN RECENT
STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS.

Q: WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES POSITION ON THIS CHARGE OF
INTERVENTION?

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A: THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN COSTA RICA HAS ISSUED THE

FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CATEGORICALLY DENIES THAT IT HAS IN ANY WAY INCITED OR ENCOURAGED PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROTESTS OF ANY KIND AGAINST THE NEW COSTA RICAN EXTRADITION LAW. THE EMBASSY WAS INDEED CONCERNED ABOUT SEVERAL ASPECTS OF THE EXTRADITION BILL, AND PRIOR TO THE BILL'S ENACTMENT MADE THESE CONCERNS KNOWN TO OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA.

THE EMBASSY WELCOMES AND WILL BE HAPPY TO COLLABORATE WITH THE PROPOSED INVESTIGATION OF ITS ACTIVITIES IN COSTA RICA."

Q: WHAT WERE THE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATING OVER?

A: THE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE IN PROTEST AGAINST THE LEGISLATION.

Q: STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN COSTA RICA, INCLUDING STATEMENTS IN THE PRESS, THAT THIS BILL WAS DESIGNED TO PROTECT ROBERT VESCO FROM FURTHER U.S. ATTEMPTS AT EXTRADITION. IS THIS THE CASE?

A: WE HAVE NOT YET HAD THE BENEFIT OF LEGAL OPINION ON THIS LEGISLATION. IT IS A LENGTHY LAW, CONTAINING SOME 14 ARTICLES, MANY CONCERNING PROCEDURES. IT APPEARS HOWEVER THAT MANY OF THE ARTICLES COULD APPLY TO VESCO.

2.EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON ABOVE FOR GUIDANCE SHOULD QUESTION ARISE. RUSH

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